

Network Traffic Synchronization Mechanism

Abstract of the Disclosure

5 Methods, apparatuses and systems directed to a network traffic
synchronization mechanism facilitating the deployment of network devices in
redundant network topologies. In certain embodiments, when a first network device
directly receives network traffic, it copies the network traffic and transmits it to at
least one partner network device. The partner network device processes the copied
10 network traffic, just as if it had received it directly, but, in one embodiment,
discards the traffic before forwarding it on to its destination. In one embodiment,
the partner network devices are operative to exchange directly received network
traffic. As a result, the present invention provides enhanced reliability and seamless
failover. Each unit, for example, is ready at any time to take over for the other unit
15 should a failure occur. As discussed below, the network traffic synchronization
mechanism can be applied to a variety of network devices, such as firewalls,
gateways, network routers, and bandwidth management devices.